

§ 551.301

plant protection and quarantine examining or inspecting); or

(ii) Planning and conducting investigations covering the character, practices, suitability or qualifications of persons or organizations seeking, claiming or receiving Federal benefits, permits, or employment (e.g., general investigations work);

(3) Employees who work within correctional institutions but who do not have direct custody and safeguarding of inmates as their primary duty; and

(4) Members of rescue or ambulance crews that provide those services in connection with law enforcement activities only in unusual situations (e.g., when the primary crews are unavailable or when an emergency situation requires more crews than can be provided by the primary service).

Subpart C—Minimum Wage Provisions

BASIC PROVISION

§ 551.301 Minimum wage.

(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section and § 551.311, an agency shall pay each of its employees wages at rates not less than the minimum wage specified in section 6(a)(1) of the Act for all hours of work as defined in subpart D of this part.

(2) The minimum wage provisions of the Act do not apply to a criminal investigator receiving availability pay under § 550.181.

(b) An employee has been paid in compliance with the minimum wage provisions of this subpart if the employee's hourly regular rate of pay, as defined in § 551.511(a) of this part, for the workweek is equal to or in excess of the rate specified in section 6(a)(1) of the Act.

[45 FR 85664, Dec. 30, 1980, as amended at 59 FR 66154, Dec. 23, 1994]

SUBMINIMUM WAGE

§ 551.311 Subminimum wage.

An agency may, if it meets certain criteria published by the Office of Personnel Management, employ certain groups of less than fully productive employees (e.g., handicapped patient workers) at rates less than the min-

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imum wage specified in section 6(a)(1) of the Act.

[45 FR 85664, Dec. 30, 1980]

Subpart D—Hours of Work

SOURCE: 45 FR 85664, Dec. 30, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 551.401 Basic principles.

(a) All time spent by an employee performing an activity for the benefit of an agency and under the control or direction of the agency is “hours of work.” Such time includes:

(1) Time during which an employee is required to be on duty;

(2) Time during which an employee is suffered or permitted to work; and

(3) Waiting time or idle time which is under the control of an agency and which is for the benefit of an agency.

(b) For an employee, as defined in 5 U.S.C. 5541(2), hours in a paid nonwork status (e.g., paid leave, holidays, compensatory time off, or excused absences) are “hours of work” under this part.

(c) Hours in an unpaid nonwork status (e.g., leave without pay, furlough, absence without leave) are not “hours of work” under this part.

(d) Time that is considered hours of work under this part shall be used only to determine an employee's entitlement to minimum wages or overtime pay under the Act, and shall not be used to determine hours of work for pay administration under title 5, United States Code, or any other authority.

(e) Irregular or occasional overtime work performed by an employee on a day on which work was not scheduled for that employee or for which the employee is required to return to his or her place of employment is deemed at least 2 hours in duration for the purpose of determining whether the employee may be entitled to overtime pay under this part, either in money or compensatory time off.

(f) For the purpose of determining hours of work in excess of 8 hours in a day under this part, agencies shall credit hours of work under § 410.402 of this chapter, part 532 of this chapter